

With Mr. Gilbert's Compliments

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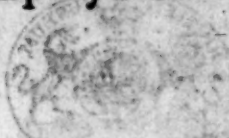
B I L L

INTENDED TO BE

OFFERED TO PARLIAMENT,

82
FOR THE BETTER

Relief and Employment of the POOR,


AND FOR THE

Improvement of the POLICE of this Country.

by Thomas Gilbert, M.P.

MANCHESTER, HARROP, PRINTER,

M,DCC,LXXXVI.

R. I. J. L.

PRINTED FOR THE

OFFICE OF PARLIAMENT

FOR THE

Relief and Employment of the Poor



Improvement of the Police of the County

MANCHESTER, HARRIS, PRINTERS.

P R E A M B L E

WHEREAS the Poor, within that part of *Great-Britain*, called *England*, are become a grievous and an encreasing burthen. The Laws provided for their relief and employment, tho' wisely calculated, in their original institution, having been grossly perverted; the money raised for their support frequently misapplied; and the alterations which have been made by parliament, at different times, in order to correct the evasions and abuses of those laws, so far from abating, having in many instances, thro' the artifices and designs of crafty, and interested persons, contributed to encrease the evil.—And moreover, several charitable donations which have been made by pious, and well-disposed people, for the use and benefit of poor persons, having by divers unlawful means, either been totally with-held from such poor objects, or grossly misapplied.—FOR REMEDY of these evils; and particularly—in order to form proper districts in every county, for carrying into execution the various purposes of this act (the parochial divisions, being in general too small for the extensive objects which it comprehends). And in order to appoint, by ballot, Committees consisting of persons of character, integrity, and ability, suited to the several purposes of the act.—To name officers of experience, judgment, and integrity, for executing and discharging the important services, and trusts required of them.—And in order to repeal all the said laws which are now subsisting (after incorporating in this or another act, such parts of them, as may be useful in the execution of the several provisions herein contained.)—And in order to make, and establish one law of police, which may prevent idleness, drunkenness, and vagrancy, which may encourage poor persons, whilst in health, to contribute a small part of their earnings, to a fund for maintaining them when oppressed with sickness and infirmity, without being driven to the disagreeable necessity of asking parish relief; and which may correct all abuses in charitable trusts.—Be effectual to encourage labour and industry: To compel those to labour who are able to work: To protect, support, and educate the infant poor, in principles of religion and morality. To punish such of the poor as are idle, profligate, and abandon'd, and to support and cherish those who are really necessitous, infirm, and impotent.

May it please your majesty that it may be enacted, &c.

C O M M I S S I O N E R S.

To enact that a certain number of commissioners consisting of seven for each county, which shall be named in the act, shall set out and divide the respective counties, ridings, and divisions; and all the peculiar jurisdictions, cities, franchises, and liberties within that part of *Great-Britain* called *England*, which have separate justices of peace, and quarter sessions under particular commissions, or by charter, and are too large for one district, into so many districts, consisting of a certain number of parishes and townships, laying near or contiguous to each other, (not less than five, nor more than ten) as the said commissioners shall judge proper. (The townships which maintain their own poor separately from the parish at large, and also all extra parochial places, to be included in those districts within which they lay, or to which they are most conveniently situated.) (See note No, 1.)

That the commissioners should meet as soon as convenient after passing the act, and when they have taken the oath to be prescribed in the act, for the due discharge of their duty; they should proceed to elect a chairman, to appoint a clerk or agent to attend and assist them in the business, and in procuring from the several overseers of the poor, who should be directed to assist them, a plan of the several parishes, townships, and places which maintain their own poor, shewing their situation and contiguity.

The commissioners, or any five or more of them, when they have formed their districts, should fix the salaries for the district agents, and the number and qualifications of the committee men: also the qualifications of those who are to elect them for each district, having regard to the situation and extent of the district, and to the circumstances and number of persons residing within it, who may be proper to constitute such committee; also to fix the time and place for taking the ballot for the first committee,

To require the commissioners, when they have finished the business appointed for them, to report the whole of their proceedings by writing under their hands and seals, to the justices at their quarter sessions, and forthwith deliver such report to the clerk of the Peace for the county, &c. who should be directed to cause it to be printed, as soon as possible, and to send a copy thereof to every acting justice, and also to every high constable within such limit, who should be required to communicate it to the overseers of the poor within each district, and describe to them the names of the parishes and places which form the district wherein they are situated.

To restrain the commissioners in setting out and dividing the districts,

tricts, from altering the boundaries or otherways interfering with any hundreds, districts, or places, already incorporated by act of parliament, for the purposes of providing for the poor, unless such commissioners shall obtain the consent of the majority of the governors, guardians, or other persons having the power of making bye laws, rules, orders and regulations, within such hundreds, districts or places, to be signified under the common seal of such respective corporations, in which case they should be at liberty to alter the same, and make such regulations as should be agreed upon, by their common consent.

To direct that the justices of peace at the next quarter-sessions, after the commissioners shall have made their report, shall order their treasurer to pay to the commissioners, such sums of money, for their reasonable expences, as they shall bona fide have expended, and also to pay such sums to the respective clerks of the peace, and other persons employed by the commissioners as aforesaid, for their trouble and expences in the execution of the act as to them shall seem reasonable; and the treasurer should be allowed the same in his accounts.

The Justices should at the same time fix the day for the ballot for the first county committee. (*See Note, No. 2.*)

DISTRICT COMMITTEE.

The act to direct the Justices of peace at their respective quarter-sessions, which shall be holden next after the commissioners shall have made their report, to nominate two justices of peace who act within each district, to preside at the ballot for chusing the committee within their respective districts; and also to nominate a proper person to take the poll at such ballot within each district, and to certify his name and place of abode to the said two justices; and also to the high constable acting within each district, who should communicate the same to every overseer of the poor within their districts.

That every person attending the meeting, and qualified according to the commissioner's report, to ballot for the choice of the district committee, should deliver into a box or glass to be provided for that purpose by the persons appointed for taking the poll, the names, additions, and places of abode of so many persons qualified as aforesaid, as the committee according to the said report is to consist of, fairly written upon paper and folded up. And the better to enable persons who intend to offer their poll at such ballot, to form a judgment of those who are thought proper for the office, the names of all persons who are intended to be ballotted for, should be required to be transmitted to the clerk so appointed to take the poll, six days at least before the day appointed for taking such poll, which clerk should be re-

quired to enter their names immediately after they shall be delivered, in a book to be kept for that purpose; but not to insert one name more than once, though it should appear in different lists; and to shew the said book to any person qualified to vote, and to deliver a copy to any such person if required; after the time of delivering in such lists of names shall be expired, written in alphabetical order, upon being paid for the same, after the rate of 2d.—for every twenty names which such list shall contain.

That as soon as the poll shall be closed the justices presiding thereat, should be directed to nominate two persons then present, as scrutineers, and deliver to them the lists, so presented, with directions forthwith to proceed upon the scrutiny, and cast up the number of votes for each committee candidate, and report the names of those persons who appear to be elected, to the said justices, at such time and place as they shall appoint to receive them, and at the same time deliver in a list of the number of votes offered for each candidate.

The person appointed for taking the poll should attend the justices at the time of their receiving the report, when they should immediately appoint the time and place for the first meeting of the committee, and direct the clerk who took the poll, to give notice thereof to every person elected upon such committee.

The act to direct that the district committee shall meet at the time and place appointed by the two justices, and after taking an Oath to be prescribed by the act, (which will be specified in the Appendix, see note, No. 3.) for the proper discharge of their duty, they should proceed to elect a chairman, and afterwards a district agent, by ballot, in manner aforesaid, and to fix the place for the residence of such agent, and for the committee to meet at, as near the centre of the district, as conveniently may be; and also to fix the days for holding their meeting in every month in the year; and that they should also at such first meeting, appoint by agreement among themselves, a rota of their respective attendances, at each monthly meeting, for their mutual convenience, specifying the names of those, not less than five, who should attend on each committee-day, and if they shall not unanimously agree therein, the chairman to fix the same, and in case any member of the committee should make default in attending such first meeting, or any such monthly committee, at the hour appointed, according to such notice and rota of duty, he should forfeit the sum of 5l. for every such neglect, to be paid into the hands of the district agent, and to be applied by him towards discharging the expenses of the committee meetings; and the surplus, if any, at the end of the year, to be applied in such manner as the committee should direct.

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They should also at their first meeting, direct their district agent to transmit to the county clerk and treasurer, an accurate account of the medium poor's rates for each parish and place, calculated from the returns lately made to parliament, after they shall have been inspected and examined by the district agent, and settled and corrected where necessary by the district committee.

The district committee, after calling upon the agent, for his return of the state of the poor, of the work houses, rates, and other things, which he is required to lay before them, should proceed to consider the same, and particularly the state and condition of the infant, aged, infirm, and impotent poor, within each parish; and if there shall be work houses suitable for them within the district, to order such of the poor as may be proper to be placed in houses, to be sent thither, or if there are none, to be put into houses to be hired for that purpose, untill more convenient accommodations can be provided for them; and the district committee, if they find a deficiency of work houses, for employing the poor, should be empowered to build new ones, or hire buildings which may be convenient, and convert them into work houses, for the employment of such poor persons as may be fit to be confined to workhouses, or they may at their discretion hire out the labour of poor persons to manufacturers, or other persons, who will undertake to employ them out of the work houses.

The district committee should have power to discharge the overseer, constable or headborough so directed to be chosen, as hereafter mentioned, for neglect of duty, or other misbehaviour.

The district committee should also receive from their clerk, at every meeting, an account of the number, condition, and employment of their poor, examine the accounts of the expences attending them, and give such directions to the agent for the future management, and employment of them, as they shall judge most proper.

They should also prepare a state of the whole expences of the district, at the end of each month, and make an estimate of the probable expences within each district, for the next month.

They should also examine the accounts of the district agent, and the overseers, and allow the same, if they approve them.

They should also consider the state of the different work-houses within the district, the number of persons contained therein, and the manner in which they are employed; and to find, if possible, better means of employing them by contract, for their labour, (*See Note, No. 4.*) or in such other manner as they shall think fit. They should enquire particularly into the age, and state of the infant poor, and procure

cure them to be examined, at proper times, by able and judicious persons, respecting their abillity and aptitude for receiving instruction, who should report their observations upon them to the committee; and the committee should consider which of them in each district, may be proper to be continued, and employed in the work-houses, or otherwise within the district; and which of them, if any, may be proper to be taken into a county house or seminary, when any such shall be provided, in order to receive a different education, which may qualify them for the sea, or other public service, or for mercantile stations; and the committee should report such special matter, with their opinion thereupon to the county committee.

Every district committee should also, ten days at least before the end of the year, apply to two justices of the peace, acting within their district, to preside at the new ballot, for the district committee, and after consulting them, cause notice to be given, in manner before directed as to the first committee, of the time and place for taking such new ballot, which justices, should give such directions for the ballot, and preside at the poll, in like manner as herein before mentioned concerning the said first ballot.

That in every such subsequent annual ballot, the district agent, for the time being, should give the notices, receive the previous lists, take the poll, and do every thing which the clerk is hereby directed to do at the said first ballot; and every person balloting for such new committee, should include in his list, one half of the old committee, and one half of other persons, qualified as aforesaid; but none of the old committee should be obliged to serve more than two years successively, without their consent, and the chairman presiding at such ballot should appoint the scrutineers, as soon as such poll shall be closed, and proceed in the same manner as herein before directed, with respect to the chairman at the said first ballot.

The district committee should also at the end of every three months, (a fortnight at least before the meeting of the county committee, as hereafter appointed,) make up an account of the money received and expended within the district during that time, and also prepare an estimate, in the best manner they can, from the returns of the overseers of the poor, or any other information they can get, of the probable expences on account of the poor, for the three months then next following, and report the same to such county committee.

Rules and orders, for the direction of all masters of workhouses, and the inferior officers, and servants, and for the government of the several persons to be admitted therein, should be well formed and digested, and inserted in the appendix to the bill.

DISTRICT AGENT.

The District Agent should be chosen by the first committee, and continued if approved, or another elected, in the same manner as the first, by every new committee, and should give such security as the committee should approve, for his duly accounting for the money he receives.

His duty should be from time to time to visit and superintend the workhouses, to make as soon as possible, a state in writing of all the workhouses within the district; and also of the circumstances and situation of every poor person, who receives or is in need of parish relief, within each parish or place, describing whether within or out of the work house, and whether they have any, and what employment; also the ages or infirmities of each person, and the number and age of their children, if any: Also what pensions or allowances have been made them, by the overseers, and every other particular which he may think necessary for the information of the committee, or which they may require from him.

He should also state the expences of the poor in the preceding Month, and the probable expences in the succeeding Month, in order that the committee may give the necessary information thereof to the county committee.—He should also call upon the overseers for the assessments and accounts of the expences attending the poor in every parish, &c. within the district, during the three years for which the returns have been made to parliament, and also for the last year, which accounts the overseers or persons who have the custody of them, should be required to produce; and when he has compared the three years accounts upon which the returns were made, with such returns; if there shall appear any omission or misrepresentation, he should report them to the district committee, who should enquire into the same, and be empowered to investigate and correct it, and if they find any thing which appears wilful, and of magnitude sufficient to be reprehended and punished by legal proceedings, the district committee should report it to the county committee.

The district agent should hear the complaint of paupers and relieve them, or give directions to the overseer for that purpose, if necessary, before the meeting of the committee; and if any person travelling on the road, or through any town or place, upon his lawful occasion, should by accident, or sickness, be rendered unable to proceed on his journey, he should be immediately relieved, in such manner as his necessities require, by the overseer of the place where he shall then be; and such overseer should with all convenient speed, represent the same to the district agent, who should see that every proper accommodation is provided for him.

The.

The district agent in all matters of doubt and difficulty, should consult any member or members of the committee, who may happen to be near him, and act under their advice, 'till the next committee meeting, and then report such matters to the committee, with all the circumstances attending them.

The district agent, as soon as he receives from the committee the order for the quarterly contributions from the district for which he acts, should immediately calculate and compute the proportion, which each parish, township, and place, maintaining its own poor, is to contribute to the sum with which the said district is charg'd; and after such proportions have been made by him, and examin'd and allowed by the committee, he should signify the amount thereof to the overseer of every such parish, township, or place, who should collect the same, by three monthly assessments, by virtue of an order from the district committee. (Sec note, No. 5.)

He should, previous to the monthly meeting of the district committee, examine and settle the several overseers accounts, and receive the ballances of money which shall appear to be in their hands, and remit the same to the county clerk and treasurer, and lay an abstract of such accounts before the committee, together with an account of all money owing in respect of the poor, and of the rates unpaid, if any, in each parish, township, or place, within the district, (which accounts every overseer should be required to make out and deliver to the district agent).

OVERSEERS. and CONSTABLES.

The act to direct that the occupiers of lands, &c. in each parish, paying to the poors rates for lands, &c. of the yearly value of 20l. should elect, by ballot, in the manner hereby prescribed for the other ballots, as soon as conveniently may be, after the said commissioners shall have made their report, a person whom they shall think well qualified to serve the office, and do the business hereby required of overseer of the poor, who should be allowed, if they think it necessary, a small annual salary for his trouble, in augmentation to the allowance hereafter directed to be made to him, for collecting the forfeitures and penalties, taxes, and Sunday tolls.

And another fit person should also be chosen at the same time, and in the same manner; to execute the office of constable or headborough for the same places; and in parishes and places where the duty, in the judgment of two justices of peace, acting within the district, where such parish, or place is situated will not be too considerable to be performed by one person, those two offices may be united in the same person.

And

And every such constable so elected, should be allowed a salary, to be fixed by those who elect him, and approved by the district committee; which salary should be paid by the county treasurer, out of the casual and contingent fund hereby provided. (*see note, No. 6.*)

That the minister of the parish should fix the day and place for taking such ballot, and should preside at every such election, and appoint a person to take the poll, and also scrutineers to examine and report the numbers upon the ballot, in such manner as before directed concerning the other ballots.

As disputes may arise whether persons offering to ballot have the requisite qualifications, three persons should be nominated by a majority of those present, who have a right to vote, before the ballot begins, as judges to determine all such disputes.

Upon the death or removal of any such overseer, constable, or headborough, the inhabitants of the parish or place for which he served should forthwith proceed in like manner to elect another in his stead.

The overseers should explain to the district agent, and also to the district committee, if required, the account of the three years expenses, in respect of the poor, which have been returned to parliament.

He should send to the district agent copies of those returns, also a copy of the assessments for the year ending at *Easter*, 1786, and of the overseer's accounts, for that and the three preceding years, and he should be paid what is reasonable for transcribing them by the district agent.

He should represent the state and situation of such paupers as shall from time to time ask for relief to the district agent, and in cases of necessity and present distress, he may relieve them before he obtains an order for that purpose.

He should make the assessments monthly, in the usual manner, for the sum directed to be raised by the order of the district committee, (which is to be certified to every overseer by the district agent, when the same has been examined and approved by the said committee) and he should apply it in such payments as he shall be directed to make, by the district committee, or the district agent.

He should give security to the satisfaction of the district committee, for his duly accounting for all the money which he shall receive.

He should keep and enter in a book to be provided for that purpose, in a form to be sealed by the district agent, and approved by the

the district committee; an account of all receipts and payments, in respect of the poor, to be settled by the district agent: and the balance should be paid into his hands by the overseer, at the end of every month; and the district agent should abstract them into one account, and lay such abstract before the district committee, at the end of every quarter, ten days at least before the meeting of the county committee.

The overseer should also collect and receive the several new taxes by this or any subsequent act, authorised to be laid and imposed upon persons keeping dogs, and upon Sunday turnpike tolls, and also the several forfeitures and penalties which by virtue of this or any subsequent act of parliament may be thought fit to be given, for the benefit of the poor, and for an encouragement of the great objects to which they are made applicable, as hereafter-mentioned.

And the overseers should be allowed to receive one shilling in the pound, out of the money so collected for his trouble therein. (See note, No. 13.)

The act should also direct, that the constable should assist the overseer upon all occasions, in the discharge of the duty required of him by this act.

The act should direct by proviso, that nothing therein contained should alter or affect the powers, which overseers or constables, under their present appointments, are invested with, in cities, boroughs, or towns corporate, respecting the rights of citizens, freemen, or burgesses, in matters of election of members of parliament, or of any officers within such cities, boroughs, or towns corporate, but that overseers and constables, in all such places, should be nominated, elected, and appointed for those purposes, in the manner they have usually been,

C O U N T Y C O M M I T T E E.

The act should direct a county committee to be chosen, which should consist of so many members as there shall be districts, within the county &c. qualified with estates of the clear yearly value of 300^l. they should be elected by the persons who constitute the several district committees, within each county &c. on a day and at a place to be fixed by the court of quarter sessions for each county &c. as aforesaid, by ballot, to be taken in the manner herein before directed, concerning the district committees, and that on the day of election, (previous to the ballot,) the several persons present, who shall be members of the said district committees, should choose from amongst themselves a chairman, to preside at such ballot, and the clerk of the peace for such county &c. should

should be directed to take the poll, and at the close thereof, the chairman should nominate two persons present, for scrutineers, who should immediately proceed in the manner herein before directed, concerning the district committees, and make their report to the chairman, at the time and place he shall appoint for receiving the same; which committees should continue till new ones should be chosen, in like manner, in the year following, upon the like notices, and with the like qualifications; and so successively from year to year; but in every such new committee, one half of the gentlemen constituting the preceeding committee, should be named in every list, to be delivered in at such ballot; and no gentlemen should be oblig'd to serve on that committee more than two years successively, without his consent.

The county committee should be directed to meet at a day to be named by the chairman who presided at the ballot, (which should be notified to each of the committee, as also their election, by the clerk of the peace for the county,) and afterwards they should meet quarterly, the day before each general quarter sessions of the peace, at the place where such quarter sessions shall be holden, to receive reports from the several district committees, as to the several matters herein before directed, and all others which they shall find necessary to lay before them, they should at their first meeting elect a chairman to preside at their meetings; and also the clerk of the peace, treasurer of the county, or some other proper person, to be their clerk and treasurer; and they should fix the salary for him, not exceeding per annum, nor less than per annum. The elections of such chairman, and of the clerk and treasurer, to be made by ballot, in the manner herein-before directed concerning the other ballots, unless two-thirds at least of the members of the said county committee, who shall be present at such meeting, shall concur in the nomination of them.

That after appointing such chairman, and the clerk and treasurer, they should fix a rota for the attendance, of not less than seven of such committee, on the days so appointed for their quarterly meetings, and also the place and hour at which they shall meet, and if any member of the county committee should neglect to attend at the time and place so appointed, (unless prevented by sickness or some unavoidable accident) he should forfeit the sum of 10l. to be paid into the hands of the said clerk and treasurer, and applied in defraying the expences of the county committees, at their said meetings; and the remainder, if any, at the end of the year, to be applied for such uses and purposes, as the county committee should direct.

The county committee should order the county clerk and treasurer, fairly to enter the account before directed to be made out and delivered to him by the district agent, in a book or books to be provided

vided and kept for that purpose, that the county committee may have recourse to them when necessary.

The county committee after examining and considering the reports from the several district committees, respecting the returns made to parliament by the overseers; if they observe any omissions, misrepresentations or errors therein, should take every proper means to investigate the same, and to cause the medium proportions for the said three years to be made as perfect as possible; and if there shall appear to have been any wilfull mistakes, concealments or misrepresentations therein, they should direct the necessary proceedings for enforcing the penalties and punishments, authorized and directed to be levied and inflicted upon the offenders for the same.

The act to direct that every parish and place maintaining its own poor, shall contribute to the general county poor rates, in proportion to the sums which they paid on account of their poor, on a medium of the said three years, for which the said returns were made to parliament, after the same shall have been inspected, settled, and adjusted in the manner hereby directed.

The county committee, after considering the several returns, and examining and correcting the errors, if any, should fix and ascertain the proportions which every district shall in future contribute to a given sum, viz. (100l.) and certify the same to the district agent, who should forthwith settle and adjust the proportions, which each parish and place should contribute thereto, according to the medium so to be fixed as aforesaid, and lay them before the district committee for their inspection and approbation.

The county committee should at their quarterly meetings examine, and inspect the accounts of the county clerk and treasurer, and allow the same if they find them just; and they should also inspect and superintend the accounts of the district agents, and the overseers of the poor, and if they observe any mistakes or inaccuracies therein, they should represent the same to the district committee, that they may be more minutely examined and corrected by them.

The county committee should consider, from the reports of the district committees, and from their own observations, what public buildings, as hospitals for the sick and infirm poor, or as seminaries for the instruction and education of poor children, or as hospitals for the reception of idiots, lunatics, or insane persons may be necessary to be provided, for the general use of the county, in order to carry the several purposes of the act more completely into execution; and should have power, after fully considering the same, and procuring proper plans and estimates to be made, to contract for the building, fitting up, and furnishing the same, in the plainest and most economical manner; and the county committee should have power to bor-

row money at interest, on the credit of the county poor rates, hereby authorised to be laid, and of the casual and contingent fund, hereby provided for the building, furnishing, and maintaining such hospitals, or seminaries, as they shall so judge necessary and convenient to be built and provided; but no county poor rate should be made applicable to those purposes, when it shall exceed three fourth parts of the sum so to be fixed as aforesaid, as the medium annual sum for contribution for the districts, parishes, and places aforesaid.

The county committee should at their quarterly meetings after examining and considering the reports from the several district committees, and the several estimates, which may be laid before them; fix and assess the gross sum to be raised for the poor within their respective Counties, during the three months then next ensuing, and the county clerk and treasurer should certify the same to every district agent, and the proportion thereof which each district should contribute thereto, according to the proportions so to be fixed as aforesaid, which district agent should forthwith communicate the same to every overseer of the poor within his district as herein-before mentioned.

The county committee after assessing as aforesaid, the money to be raised for the use of the poor in each district, should assess by a separate rate, the gross sum which in their judgment will be fit and necessary to be raised by the county rates, for paying the several expences usually levied by a county rate as herein after mentioned, and make an order upon the county clerk and treasurer, to raise the same within the several districts, in the proportions they are to contribute to the poors rate, after the same has been so regulated as aforesaid, and they should employ the money arising from that rate, to the purposes for which it is made applicable by this act, in such manner as the county committee should direct.

The county committee should also make an order upon the county clerk and treasurer, directing the application of so much of the money arising from the said casual and contingent fund, as they shall find convenient and necessary, for the various purposes to which the same is made applicable by this act.

The act to direct by proviso, that no person above seventy years of age, should be oblig'd to serve upon any of the committees, unless he chooses it.

And also that no person should be capable of holding any office under this act, who keeps an inn or public house.

PENALTIES AND FORFEITURES.

To enact that from and after the 29th day of Sept. 1787, there be paid

paid to every overseer of the poor and his successors, in every parish, township and place, within that part of *Great Britain* call'd *England*; in order to establish a casual and contingent fund, for the purposes hereafter mentioned, all penalties and forfeitures incurred or to be incurred by persons upon forfeiture of recognizances, given or to be given on obtaining licences for selling ale and victuals, of recognizances given or to be given for keeping the peace, or for prosecuting felons.—Also all penalties and forfeitures incurr'd or to be incurred, by virtue of any law now in being, or hereafter to be made, for the preservation of deer, and game, or touching or concerning vagrants, or common beggars.—And also all penalties and forfeitures to be incurred under or by virtue of this act, (here may be enumerated many other penalties and forfeitures under such particular acts, as are beneficial to the community, and lose much of their effect, for want of having those penalties and forfeitures enforced), which penalties and forfeitures should be collected and received by the overseer of the poor, for the time being, (who should be allowed 1s. in the pound for collecting them,) (See Note, No. 7.)

Every overseer should take such measures for the recovery thereof, as the law directs, and keep a separate account of the money so to be collected, and pay it from time to time, into the hands of the county treasurer, who should apply the same under the direction of the county committee, for the purposes herein-after mentioned.

APPLICATION of the CASUAL and CONTINGENT FUND.

To enact that the money arising from the forfeitures and penalties before-mentioned, and all other money directed by the act to constitute the casual and contingent fund, shall be applied from time to time under the direction of the county committee, to the following purposes, viz. for the encouragement of the Friendly Societies, and Sunday Schools, in the manner herein-after directed; for erecting buildings for the education and employment of poor children; for erecting hospitals, for the reception and accommodation of the sick, aged, infirm, and impotent poor, who may be proper to be removed from the districts wherein they reside; for contributing with other Counties, to the erection of hospitals, for the reception and accommodation of ideots, lunatics, and insane persons, where they shall be wanted; for paying salaries to the overseers and constables, as herein-mentioned, and for paying the compensation to his Majesty for the diminution of the revenue of excise, by reducing the number of ale-houses.

TAXES

TAXES UPON DOGS.

To enact that from and after the 29th Day of *Sept.* 1787, there be paid unto the overseer of the poor, and his successors, in every parish, township and place, within that part of *Great-Britain*, called *England*, by every person who shall keep any hound, greyhound, setting dog, pointer, spaniel, or other dog, the several yearly sums following, as an encouragement of the several objects hereafter-mentioned, to which those sums are hereby directed to be applied, that is to say, For every pack of hounds 5*l.* For every greyhound 10*s.* 6*d.* For every setting dog 10*s.* 6*d.* For every pointer, spaniel, and other dog, used for finding or running game, 5*s.* For every other dog of what kind or species soever, the sum of 2*s.* 6*d.* To be assessed, collected and levied by the overseer of the poor, in such manner as the poor's rates are by virtue of this act authorized and directed to be assessed, collected and levied, and he should be allowed 1*s.* in the pound for his trouble in assessing and collecting that tax and the Sunday tolls. (See Note, No. 8.)

SUNDAY TOLLS.

It should also enact, that there be paid to every overseer of the poor, or to such person as he shall authorize to receive the same, by every person who shall ride, lead, or drive any horse, carriage, or cattle thro' any toll-gate or toll-bar, erected, or to be erected, upon, or belonging to any turnpike road within the limits aforesaid, on the Sabbath-day, an additional toll, equal to that which is or shall be authorized to be collected and received for the use of such turnpike road, except in respect of persons going to, or returning from their parish church, or other usual place of worship, and except at toll-gates, or toll-bars, where additional tolls are already authorized and directed to be taken on Sundays, for particular purposes by virtue of any law now in being; and that all the powers and authorities contained in such turnpike acts, for collecting such tolls, and punishing persons who neglect or refuse to pay the same, shall be applied to the additional tolls hereby authorized to be taken as fully and effectually, as if the said powers and authorities had been hereby repeated and re-enacted; which money arising from the tax upon funday tolls, should be paid by the overseer, into the hands of the county clerk and treasurer and constitute part of the casual and contingent fund herein before mentioned. (See Note, No. 8.)

FRIENDLY SOCIETYS.

To enact for the purpose of encouraging sobriety, labour, and industry, that in all cases where friendly clubs or societies, have been established

established under such rules, orders, and regulations, as shall be approved by the county committee, after they have been transmitted to them, by the president, master, steward, or other person who shall then be at the head of such club or society, the county committee should have power to order such sum as they shall think proper, not exceeding one shilling per week, to be paid to every poor person who shall have contributed to the fund belonging to the society whereof he is a member, for ten years or more, so long as such poor person shall from sickness, lameness, or other infirmities, by the rules of the said society, be entitled to a weekly allowance out of the fund or box of such society, over and above the allowance which he shall receive from the said club or society, and shall direct the same to be paid by their treasurer, out of the casual or contingent fund, hereby established

And to enact as a further encouragement of the said friendly societies, that as soon as any new club or society shall be established, consisting of one hundred members or more, and the rules and orders made for the government of them, shall be transmitted to, and approved and confirmed by the county committee; they may direct their treasurer to pay to the steward of every such society, any sum they may think fit, not exceeding 20l. on having security given for the due application thereof, in aid of the benevolent purposes of such society.

To direct that after the rules and orders of any club or friendly society, shall have been approved and confirmed by the county committee, they should be enforced; the weekly contributions and forfeitures to be incurred, duly paid, and in case of default, the master who employs such defaulter, should be required on application from the steward or treasurer of the society to pay it in three days after such application, and deduct it out of the earnings of such defaulter, or to forfeit double the sum for every neglect.

That a certain time should be limited by the act, within which every journeyman and labourer, and also every male servant, of the age of fourteen years or upwards, should either procure himself to be admitted into some friendly society, in the neighbourhood where he lives, or the master of every such servant, journeyman, or labourer, should after that time, be compell'd to pay, and deduct out of his wages or earnings, the weekly sums following, viz. for every such servant, whose annual wages does not exceed 5l. two-pence; to every such servant, whose annual wages exceed 5l. and do not amount to 10l. per annum, three-pence; and to every such servant, whose wages exceed 10l. per annum, four-pence per week; and every such journeyman, who does not earn more than 5s. per week, two-pence; who earns
more

more than 5s. and not more than 10s. per week, three-pence per week; and every such journeyman who earns 15s. per week, or more, four-pence per week; and every such labourer who does not earn more than 5s. per week, two-pence; and who earns 5s. per week, and not more than 7s. 6d. per week, three-pence; and who earns 10s. per week, or more, four-pence per week; all which weekly sums, from every such servant, journeymen, and labourer, should be assessed and collected by the overseer of the poor of the parish, or place where every such person resides, and paid or accounted for monthly, or quarterly, to the treasurer of the county, and applied by him in aid of the poors rates.

That as disputes may arise about the quantum of the charge, or the payment, there should be a committee of three persons, annually appointed, in every parish by ballot, to hear and determine the same.

To enact that the county treasurer who receives the weekly earnings from the journeymen, labourers, and servants, shall keep a separate account of them for each district, and the persons from whom such earnings are received, should be relieved when their necessities require it, within the district where they reside, in such manner as the other paupers are, untill they procure themselves to be admitted into some friendly society; and whenever they shall be so admitted, and a certificate thereof produced, the sums which shall have been received on their account, should be forthwith paid to the treasurer of such society, for the use and benefit of the members thereof, after deducting thereout what shall appear to have been paid by the overseer, for the relief of any such person from the time he so contributed thereto. (See note, No. 13.)

SUNDAY SCHOOLS.

To enact, that for instilling principles of religion into the minds of poor children, and for instructing them in their religious and moral duty, in the early part of life, and to encourage the Sunday schools, which have been established under the patronage, and at the expence of many respectable persons, the county committee should procure from some clergyman, a composition or collection of such books, as may be fit for those purposes, and cause them to be printed at the county expence, and a sufficient number of them to be placed in the hands of every district agent, and to be sent by him to the patrons of those schools, upon their request in writing, specifying the number they want; and those patrons should distribute them amongst the poor children, in such manner as they shall think fit. (See note No. 9.)

C

CHARITABLE

CHARITABLE DONATIONS.

The county Committee should, after inspecting the reports made by the district committee, investigate all such matters, respecting the charitable donations, as should appear doubtful or obscure in the returns made, and be enabled to call for such further evidence as may be necessary to explain them; and if there is just cause to suspect any fraud or concealment, they should be empowered to pursue such legal methods, as the law allows, for making such discoveries, punishing the offenders, and enforcing the objects of such donations. And if it shall appear to them that there are any estates in land or money, which had been given to charitable purposes, and the profits or produce of them have been withheld, they should direct such prosecutions as may be effectual for recovering the same, and applying them to the uses pointed out or intended by the Donor; and in cases where the profits and produce of such charitable donations shall appear to have been received, by persons who have not accounted for them, nor have any right to retain them, for their own use. Or if it shall appear, that the uses to which such charities were given, are from any accident or circumstance become incapable of taking effect, the county committee in every such case, should have power to direct their treasurer to receive the produce thereof, and apply it under their direction, for the purposes of placing out poor children as apprentices to tradesmen of credit and character, and in giving every such child a sum of money, towards setting him up in trade when his apprenticeship expires, if his behaviour has been such as to deserve it.

C O U N T Y R A T E S .

In order to introduce proper œconomy, and to raise the sums which may be necessary for the several purposes to which county rates are applicable, and to prevent trouble and expence in collecting them, and all frauds and abuses in applying the same,—The act should direct that the county committees, at their respective quarterly Meetings, should order such sums to be raised, as they shall judge necessary (after enquiring from the clerk of the peace, treasurer, and other proper officers, capable of giving information) by the overseers of the poor, in the proportions before expressed respecting the poor, for the purposes of repairing and maintaining of county bridges, county goals, and houses of correction, and for passing of vagrants, for payments to the militia, and such other public purposes to which county rates have been usually applied; which sums so to be raised, should be paid by the overseers, into the hands of the district agent, and by him transmitted to the county treasurer, for the several purposes directed by this act.

The

C O U N T Y C L E R K and T R E A S U R E R.

The act to direct that the county clerk and treasurer shall pay, and apply all the money he shall receive from the county rates, and also all the other money arising from the said casual and contingent fund, to such persons, for such purposes, and in such manner as he shall from time to time be directed by the county committee.

He should also be required to give such security for his duly accounting for the money which shall come to his hands, as the county committee shall direct. He should constantly attend the meetings of the county committee, and lay before them the reports from the district committees. He should also lay before them, a state of the general accounts, shewing what money has been collected and paid, within each district, and what remains in the hands of each district agent.

He should carefully and punctually discharge the several duties laid upon him by the act, and enter and keep in separate books one distinct account of money received and paid, in respect of the poor; another of money received and paid in respect to the matters to which the county rates had been usually applied; and another in respect of the said casual and contingent funds.

He should also make up all his accounts, and lay them before the county committee, at the end of each quarter, and should particularly state to them the sums of money then remaining in his hands, upon each of the said accounts; all which accounts should be fairly transcribed, and laid before the county committee at their quarterly meetings, for their inspection and consideration, and if approved, they should allow them.

A L E H O U S E S.

In order to reduce the number of inferior ale-houses, which are for the most part, kept by very mean persons, and are the general sources of idleness, debauchery, and poverty. To enact that from and after the first day of *September*, 1787, no licence shall be granted to any person for keeping an ale-house, inn, or victualling-house, unless it shall appear by a certificate from the commissioners, or some proper officer of the excise, that the person to whom such licence is to be granted, or the person who was licenc'd to the same house, for the year next preceeding, had paid duty for, or sold fifty barrels of ale, at least, for which duty had been paid. And further to enact, that to make up the deficiency which may be occasion'd in the duty of excise, upon ale or beer, by such reduction of the number of ale-houses, there shall

be paid to his majesty an additional duty of 20s. upon every licence to sell ale, which shall be granted in future.

And the county committee should be directed to order a payment to his majesty, and his successors, out of the said casual and contingent fund, at the end of every year, of a further sum, which shall be equal to one half the duty which was paid within each county, from the houses so to be reduced, in the year ending the 5th day of *July*, 1787.

And for the information of the justices of peace, who are by law to grant the licences for such ale-houses, the proper officer of the excise, should be directed to send a list of the names of all such persons, as appear by the excise books, or from information which the commissioners of excise shall receive, upon a proper requisition for that purpose from the excise officers, within the several divisions in each county, to have paid duty for no more than fifty barrels of ale, or beer, in the year preceeding, (see note No. 10.)

S M A L L D E B T S.

In order to prevent the evils arising from poor persons contracting debts, which they are not able to pay, and the frequent imprisonment of their persons and seizure of their goods for such debts, by which they and their families become chargeable to the parish.

To enact, that if any journeyman, servant, or labourer shall contract a debt to the amount of 40s. or upwards, no writ, or other legal proceeding shall be issued or had against such person for the recovery thereof, which may affect either his liberty or his property. (*See note, No. 11.*)

V A G R A N C Y.

In order to prevent vagrancy, the bill may enact, that no person who has a wife, child, or children, chargeable to any parish or place, shall be permitted to leave them, and go to reside in any other parish or place, at the distance of five miles, without first obtaining a certificate, or testimonial in writing, under the hand of the overseer of the poor of the parish or place where he so resides, specifying the causes of his departure from such parish or place, and the name of the parish or place to which he intends going, the rout or course he means to take, and also the time when he purposes to return to his family, which testimonial should be allowed by the district agent, by writing indorsed thereupon, and signed by him, before it shall have any effect.

Also

Also to enact, that if any person shall depart from his wife or family, without first obtaining such testimonial, or if any person able to work and maintain his family, shall not work to the extent of his ability, but live in a habit of idleness, and suffer his Wife, child, or children, to be chargeable to the parish or place where they are settled or reside, he should, upon complaint made to a justice of peace, if the facts above alledged are proved, be committed to the house of correction, and there kept to hard labour three months for the first offence, six months under close confinement for the second offence, and for the third offence, he should (if able to serve his majesty as a soldier) be compelled to serve as a soldier in some garrison or place beyond the seas, for five years; and if not able to serve his majesty in that capacity, he should be confined a close prisoner, in such house of correction, and kept to hard labour for 12 months, and afterwards should continue so confined and employed, untill he shall find sureties for his future good behavior.

To enact that if the overseer of the poor, or any constable, headborough, watchman, beadle, or other peace officer shall see any person begging, or asking alms, or charity from door to door, or in any street or highway, he should be required to apprehend and convey him immediately to some justice of peace, who should on proof of the fact, commit every such person to the house of correction, there to be kept to hard labour, if able to work, for any time not exceeding three calendar months; and if any person who is not a peace officer, shall see any such person in the situation before described, he should be empowered to apprehend and deliver him into the hands of some constable, or other peace officer, who should be required to take him before a magistrate, and the person who apprehended him should attend as a witness, and the justice on proof of the complaint, should proceed in the manner before directed.

To enact that privy searches should be made by the constable, and other peace officers, whenever directed by warrant from a justice of peace; and that all persons who shall be found on such searches, who do not give a good account of themselves, but shall appear to be idle and disorderly persons, should be apprehended and taken before a justice of peace, and if he sees just cause, he may commit them to the house of correction or some other place to be employed in hard labour, untill they shall have earned sufficient to defray the expences of conveying them to the place where their friends live, or where they are likely to gain an honest subsistence, and then the justice shall send them by order, from district to district, till they arrive at such place, such order to be directed to the constable, or headborough in the first parish within the district, and so successively.

BURGLARY

B U R G L A R Y, F E L O N Y,
 And **H U E** and **C R Y.**

The bill should also enact that whenever a burglary or felony shall have been committed, notice thereof shall be immediately given to the constable, or other peace officer of the parish or place where the offence was committed, who should be required forthwith to apprehend the offender, or to cause search to be made for him immediately, from parish to parish within the district; and if not found, to get a description of his person, and to cause the same to be printed, with his crime, and pursue him by hue and cry from district to district, till he shall be apprehended; in which hue and cry every district agent, overseer, constable, and peace officer, should be required to give his best assistance. That when taken, he should be prosecuted by the agent of the district, wherein the offence was committed, and the expences charged to the county treasurer, and paid by him out of the said casual and contingent fund. That if the offender should not be apprehended within three months from the time the offence was committed, the inhabitants of such parish or place should incur a forfeiture of 5*l.* (if it was a capital offence, and 2*l.* 10*s.* if an inferior offence) to be recovered by the overseer of the poor, and paid into the hands of the county treasurer, for the benefit of the said casual and contingent fund; and if not paid, to be levied by distress and sale, upon the goods and chattles of the several owners and occupiers of lands and tenements within such parish and place, in the proportions they are to contribute to the poors rates, by virtue of this act. (see note No. 12.)

That if any person shall be found begging in the manner hereinbefore described, within any parish or place, and shall not be apprehended and prosecuted in the manner herein before directed, the inhabitants of such parish and place shall incur a forfeiture of 40*s.* for every such neglect, to be recovered, paid and applied in the manner and for the purposes before mention'd, respecting felons.

That the like method of hue and cry should be pursued for discovering and apprehending all persons who run away from their wives or children, and leave them chargeable to the parish or place where they were settled or resided.

To enact, That the justices of peace shall have power to summon any person who makes default in payment of any of the rates and assessments authorised to be raised by virtue of the act, and if they do not shew good cause for their refusal, to levy the same upon their goods and chattels by warrant of distress and sale. — And that there shall be a power of appeal to the quarter sessions, as to any inequality in the assessment.

That

That they shall also have power by the like means to enforce the payment of any forfeiture or penalty incurred by virtue of this act.

That in order to have the provisions of this act duly attended to, and enforced, returns of the money raised and expended within each county and district, should be made quarterly, by the direction, and under the inspection of the several district, and county committees, to a person in London, duly qualified for the employment, who should be allowed a clerk or clerks to assist him, in inspecting, digesting, and arranging the several accounts of each district and county, in such method and order, that the several members of parliament, and other persons interested in the prosperity of this undertaking, may have access to them, and see the progress of the work. The person who is to keep such office, should be elected by ballot, in London, and for that purpose each county committee should nominate one person, to poll at such ballot, and the persons so nominated should fix the salary for the person so to be elected.

Powers should be inserted for the district committees to bind out poor children apprentice, to trade or husbandry, and to take proper covenants from the masters for their care and instruction; also to allow those bound to trades something towards putting them into business, when their time expires, if their behaviour deserves it. Also powers for the governors of work-houses, and other officers appointed under this act, to set up any trade, for employing the poor people by the direction of the committee.

The several powers and directions given [by 43. Eliz. c. 2, by 7 Jam. 1. c. 3, by 3 Ann, c. 6, by 4 ann. c. 19. by 8 Ann, c. 9, by 20 G. 2, c. 19, concerning apprentices, and by the 7 sec. of 43 Eliz. for obliging parents and children to relieve each other. By the 5 G. 1, c. 8, to overseers, for receiving the rents and profits of estates, and to seize the goods of persons who run away, leaving their wife, child, or children, chargeable to the parish. By 43 Eliz. c. 2, sec. 3. to justices to rate other parishes, within the hundred, in aid of any parish much burdened with poor, and for obliging the overseers to account for such money. By the 43 Eliz. c. 2. f. 5. for authorising the overseers, with the consent of the lords of manors, to build habitations for poor people, on the wastes or commons. By 9 Geo. I. c. 7. for authorising overseers to hire houses, to employ and lodge poor persons in. By the 18 Eliz. c. 3. 3 Car. I. c. 5, 12. 13. Car. II. c. 12. f. 19. 7 James I. c. 4. 6 Geo. II. c. 31. respecting provisions for bastard children, and the punishment of their parents. By the 17 Geo. II. c. 5, concerning women delivered of children in places they do not belong

long to. By the 17 Geo. II. c. 37. concerning the lands liable to be rated to the poor, and for publishing the poor's rates in the church, after they shall be made and allowed. By the 17 Geo. II. c. 38, and 43 Eliz. c. 2. f. 2. concerning poor's rates, and the overseers accounts. By the 43 Eliz. c. 2. 17 Geo. 2. c. 18. and 38. the 8. 9. Wil. III. c. 30. the 17th Geo. II. c. 38. respecting the making assessments, and appeals thereto, and the levying the money by the overseers, and also the levying of fines, penalties, and forfeitures; by the 9 G. 1. c. 7. the 16 G. II. c. 18, the 26 Geo. II. c. 27. concerning the powers of justices of peace, in executing the said laws; by the 8. and 9. W. III. concerning the wearing of badges; and by the 17 Geo. II. c. concerning rogues, vagabonds, and other idle and disorderly persons, (commonly called the vagrant act] should be duly examined and considered, the substance of such parts of them as may be found necessary to promote the purposes of this bill, and which are not already included in its provisions, should be formed into a sepearate bill, and the whole of those acts repealed by such new act, in order to prevent trouble and confusion hereafter.

Besides the repeal of the acts above-mentioned, there may also be repealed, as becoming usefess and unnecessary, in consequence of the regulations here made, the several acts following, viz. 3. and 4. of W. and M. c. 11. 13. and 14 of Car. II. c. 12. 3 of Ja. II. c. 13. 9 of Geo. I. c. 7. 8. 9 of W. III. c. 30. 9 and 10 of W. III. c. 11. 12 of Ann c. 18. and 3 of Geo. II. c. 29. concerning the relief, settlements, and removal of poor persons.

NOTES referred to in the BILL.

No. 1. Page 4.

IT will be most convenient, that the Commissioners should be named in the Act, by the knights, citizens, and burgesses of parliament within each county, if they can agree upon seven persons qualified for the trust, who are willing to accept it; if not, another Bill may be brought in, immediately after the second reading of the first, and passed in a short time, for the sole purpose of procuring an election of commissioners in every county, &c. by ballot, which may be made at the next Epiphany quarter session, or at an adjournment thereof, for that special purpose (such session or adjournment, may be holden in the months of January or February next;) and the names of the commissioners so to be elected, may be returned to Parliament and inserted in the Bill, before it passes the committee of the house of commons.

The following mode for the ballot is submitted to consideration, viz. the act may direct that the justices of Peace who may be present at the next Epiphany quarter session, or such adjournment as shall be made thereof, should proceed to take the ballot of the several persons then assembled, having each of them an estate in lands, &c. of such a description as shall be mentioned in the act, of the clear yearly value of 100l. except within the principality of Wales, or county of Rutland, and of the clear yearly value of 60l. within that principality and county: and that every person who shall so ballot shall deliver in the names of seven persons, who are seized of estates, freehold, or copyhold, of the clear yearly value of 300l. except within the principality of Wales, and county of Rutland, and of the clear yearly value of 150l. within that principality and county.

The act also may direct, that the clerk of the peace, within every limit, shall take the ballot, and that the justices shall appoint two gentlemen present, to be the scrutineers, to cast up the poll, and report the same to the justices, who may be directed to adjourn the session to the next, or some subsequent day, in order to receive from the scrutineers the names of the persons elected, and they should forthwith return them to the clerk of the house of commons.

No. 2. Page 5.

It is apprehended the commissioners (who will be persons most respectable in character and fortune, and elected from different parts of of the county) whilst they are making the necessary enquiries for forming the districts, will very easily collect such information as may enable

able them to judge what will be a proper salary for each district agent; and also what will be a proper qualification for the committee men in each district, and for those who are to elect them, as these qualifications may be necessary to be varied according to the circumstances and situation of the several districts, and likewise what will be the most convenient time and place for taking the first ballot for the district committee.

The subsequent annual ballot will be taken at a certain time and place, in the manner directed by the act

In the cities of London and Westminster, and other great towns, where there are very large parishes, not incorporated by act of parliament, the commissioners should have power to make such parishes separate districts, or unite them with others for that purpose; as the provisions of the act will be found to operate very conveniently in all such cases; and the district agent will be in the same situation as a vestry clerk now is, within the cities of London and Westminster.

No. 3. p. 6.

There are many things to be inserted in the appendix, which cannot be ready to accompany this, but will be prepared hereafter.

No. 4. Page 7.

It is not intended by this act, to subject the parishes to great expences in erecting work-houses, or public buildings, at first, but rather to make use of the best which are already provided, and hire such further buildings as may be necessary, and it is hoped that in the future progress of it, the arrangement will be such, as will prevent any great expence on this account, within the several districts; but some few county buildings as hereafter pointed out, may in time, when the utility of this plan shall be made evident, be thought prudent to be erected.

No. 5. Page 10.

It may be proper to have a table annexed as an appendix to the act, shewing the quantum, that each district and also each parish and place, will be obliged to contribute to any given sum, to be raised by the whole county, in proportion to the medium of the three years expences of the poor, when settled and adjusted for the same County, in the manner directed by the Bill.

No. 6. p. 11.

This salary to the constable, it is hoped will appear a very proper application of part of the contingent fund; as if that officer is judiciously appointed, and his duty well executed, it will be the most effectual means of putting an end to vagrancy, and very much facilitate the salutary purposes of this act.

No. 7. p. 16.

These allowances to the overseer, for collecting the forfeitures, penalties, and taxes, will, it is apprehended, be a sufficient inducement to an active sensible man, to undertake that office, which is of very great importance in the execution of the purposes of the act; but if in any such parishes or places they should not be thought sufficient, those who elect him are empowered to add a small annual allowance, at the time he is elected.

No. 8. p. 17

This tax upon dogs, and the Sunday tolls will operate with a double aspect; at the same time correcting abuses, and affording a revenue to be applied for the most salutary purposes, which will recommend them very much to the public, and it is hoped meet with the approbation and countenance of the legislature.

No. 9. Page 19.

The masters and mistresses who are to instruct the poor children, are at present paid by patrons and benefactors, and it seems proper that it should be so continued, as they will by that means have more influence over such instructors, and be better enabled to keep them to a proper discharge of their duty; therefore the encouragement from the county committee is only applied to Books.

No. 10, p. 22.

This Regulation respecting alehouses it is apprehended may be made with very little trouble, and is essentially necessary as a foundation to the reform proposed by the act.—It will be the means of suppressing many disorderly Houses, and thereby preventing much mischief.—Those also who obtain Licences, will have their conduct strictly inspected, as it will be the duty of the overseers to prosecute and enforce the penalties of the recognizances against all persons, who keep disorderly houses.

The

No. 11. p. 22.

This will prevent persons contracting debts at ale-houses, or otherwise, which they have not the means of paying. It will be a spur to their industry, to get by their labour money, to buy what they may have occasion for, and if they are industrious, and preserve good characters, they will most probably procure friends, to lend them so much as their real necessity may require, if it exceed 40s.

No. 12. p. 24.

It is hoped under the late acts, all the houses of correction in the kingdom, will be put under such regulations, as will make that punishment inflicted by hard labour and confinement there, effectual to reform the offender, and prevent a repetition of the offence, and that the hue and cry will be the means under the several regulations of this act, of discovering and detecting all offenders against the law.

No. 13. p. 19.

It is hoped the inducement here offered for servants, journeymen, and labourers, to procure themselves to be entered in some of the friendly societies or clubs, will move them by a laudable pride to prefer the provisions they will be entitled to under those societies when oppressed with sickness and infirmity, to parish relief or confinement in work houses, and as those contributions will be paid by the masters, there will be very little trouble in carrying that part of the plan into execution.

It seems necessary, to have a general act to establish certain rules, orders and regulations for the government of all those societies and clubs, which should be settled and adjusted upon the best plan, which can be collected from those now subsisting, or which can be formed upon that subject, by the best advice after a very full consideration.

Mr. Gilbert on his return from an excursion into the north, procured a few copies of this bill to be printed at Manchester, in order to be circulated amongst some gentlemen of knowledge and experience upon the subject; from whom he hopes for the favour of receiving such observations, as may enable him to make it more perfect; after which he proposes to reprint and send it to the several members of both houses of parliament, that they may have opportunity of considering it previous to their meeting in the next session.

